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# SERVICE NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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The NEWS is intended to inform staff members of developments within the Service and is not for distribution to others.

Benton, Miss Mildred

May 1, 1940

## YOUR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT SAYS --

Your Washington Correspondent has just finished reading a full page feature story in a large Southern newspaper. The story dealt with the plans, work, and achievements in the soil conservation districts of a certain State. The story was written by an employee of the Service -- in fact, it came from Region 2 regional office. Now, we have seen dozens of "accomplishment" and "progress" articles before, so from that standpoint the story was not unusual.

There was, however, one outstanding quality throughout the piece that makes it well worth the reading by all of us. That quality was in bringing out the definite COOPERATION between various agricultural agencies in carrying out a soil conservation program in the State concerned.

In the course of telling the story the writer gave considerable detail as to how various Federal and State agencies intertwined their individual efforts in a push toward the desired goal -- soil conservation. Appropriate amounts of space were utilized to tell how the State Extension Service, the county agents, local and State planning groups, vocational agriculture teachers, Farm Security Administration, AAA, Soil Conservation Service, and others operated in fitting individual agency efforts into a single broad front to attain real results.

Your Washington Correspondent believes that readers of this article put it down with a feeling that they had a picture of the over-all objectives and plan of operations of a many-phased attack on the soil erosion problem. Better yet, they saw the part that each agency plays in piecing together a complete agricultural action picture.

You know, there are two kinds of cooperation. The talking kind that expends itself in long and loud wordage. And the ACTIVE kind. It's the latter that counts -- and that's why the Region 2 piece was important. It clearly brought out active cooperation, both in the field job being done and in the reporting of that job.

There's another thing about this cooperation business. It works two ways. Cooperation is seldom secured, until it is first offered. Let's see to it that we of the Soil Conservation Service do our part on the offering end.

#### SURVEYS COMPLETED ON ONE-FIFTH OF LAND IN DISTRICTS

Conservation surveys had been completed on 19,000,000 acres in soil conservation districts on December 31, 1939. This is more than one-fifth of the total area in 156 districts that were cooperating actively with the Department of Agriculture on that date. Surveys had been completed on 21 districts. Although mapping was begun in a few districts before 1939, nearly all of this work was done last year.

Surveys are now completed or under way in every district that has entered into a memorandum of understanding with the Department. In areas that have a large amount of work much surveying must be done by scattered farms, but progressive surveys (in which all of the land is mapped) are made wherever possible, because they can be made more cheaply per acre and because better soil mapping can be done by this method.

Costs of detailed surveys range from 9¢ per acre in certain of the Eastern States to 2¢ per acre in the Great Plains. Reconnaissance surveys cost only a fraction of this amount, depending on the scale and the thoroughness with which the land is examined.

#### CERTIFICATES FOR ACCIDENT-FREE WORK UNITS

The 123 field work units that got through the year 1939 without a lost-time accident will each receive a certificate signed by Chief H. H. Bennett.

The plan to substitute group awards for individual recognition was approved by the recently appointed Washington Safety Committee, of which N. Robert Bear is chairman.

Distribution of the certificates will start soon.



THE OPEN FORUM

Editor, Service News:

It occurred to me that readers of Service News might be interested in a CCC safety program that has proven very successful at Weeping Water, Nebraska.

Enrollee cooperation and responsibility are the most essential factors in promoting and conducting a successful safety program in a CCC camp. This is obtained by a continuous educational program along the lines of safety and by placing the responsibility of the safety program of each crew on selected enrollees.

The educational work is carried on in various ways, including:

1. A six to eight lesson orientation course for each group of new enrollees.
2. A thorough explanation of the job, care and use of tools, and possible hazards to be looked for on each new job. Each foreman discussing and pointing out special safety practices and hazards in his weekly job training class.
3. The assignment of men on crews so that at least one experienced man works with each new enrollee.
4. Conducting regular group safety meetings with all members of company and supervisory personnel present. Discussions led by supervisory personnel, and speakers from private industry used to explain safety programs in their organizations and how safety training may be of value to the enrollee securing a job.
5. Showing and discussing sound films and film strips on safety.
6. A prerequisite that all leaders, assistant leaders, and truck drivers be familiar with all safety rules and regulations and State and local laws governing vehicle operations.
7. Conducting regular first aid courses.
8. A daily change of safety posters, slogans, etc. on bulletin boards.
9. Placing a monthly National Safety Magazine in the camp reading room.

Responsibilities assumed by the enrollees may include:

1. The delegation of one man on each crew as the safety leader.
2. Encouraging enrollees to work out and discuss new ideas.
3. Appointing a new leader or assistant leader each three months to serve on the camp safety committee.
4. Analyzing each minor injury.
5. Taking active part in all group safety meetings either by discussion or giving a short talk.

If the success of a safety program can be measured by the number of injuries or fatalities over a period of time, results are being obtained by the camp. From October, 1936, to March, 1940, a total of 98,717 man-days were worked with one lost time injury. Signed: Howard J. Ellia, Superintendent.

#### PRESIDENT PLANS 21-DAY TOUR FOR "CONSERVATION"

"Conservation" will be the theme of talks by President Roosevelt on the 21-day tour of the country which he plans to take in June, according to press reports.

The President expects to dedicate the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in North Carolina and Tennessee. From there he will go to Mississippi, Texas, California, Washington, and perhaps Alaska, returning east by way of the Middle Western States.

The plans, however, were conditioned on developments in the European war, as well as the Congressional adjournment date. As the President put it, his schedule is very "iffy."

#### EIGHTH AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS

Nearly all bureaus of the Department of Agriculture will participate in the exhibit to be displayed in the patio of the Administration Building next month. Most of the exhibits will stress conservation phases of the agricultural program. SCS will contribute a series of panels illustration work of the Service.

Although the Congress will meet during the week May 10 to 18, the conservation exhibit will be on display from May 3 to the end of the month.

At the meetings of the section of agriculture and conservation, Secretary Wallace will give the welcoming address on the 11th. W. C. Lowdermilk, assistant chief, will speak on "Lessons for America From the Old World in the Use of Land" on the same day.

On the 16th, Chief H. H. Bennett will tell the story of erosion and its effects on mankind. Also on the 16th, J. A. B. Nolla of the Agricultural Experiment Stations in Puerto Rico will discuss "Soil Conservation in Puerto Rico and Its Influence Upon the Agricultural Economics of the Island."

The agricultural and conservation section will meet in the auditorium of the South Building. Everyone who can attend is welcome.

#### ADDRESSES BY THE CHIEF

On May 1, Chief H. H. Bennett will present an illustrated address on conservation at the meeting of the National Education Association in Washington, D. C. On the 10th he will address the conservation meeting of the Garden clubs of America at Baltimore, Maryland.

#### FIRST ECONOMIC SURVEY COMPLETED

The economic survey of the Horse and Rush Creek Soil Erosion District in Colorado, under supervision of T. A. Newbauer of Region 6, has just been completed. The first economic survey attempted, it is naturally somewhat experimental in character.

Population distribution and trends, levels of family living, industries, prices and costs, and racial and cultural characteristics are among the economic factors included in the survey. These factors will have tremendous importance in land-use planning.

Ralph T. Stewart of Washington, D. C., will go to Amarillo, Tex., around May 1 to assist in developing methods for presenting the results of the study to district supervisors and the planning staff of the area office. The findings of the survey will later be incorporated in the district work plans.

#### SERVICE NEWS OFFICE MOVES

Your news sheet is now quartered in room 514 Standard Oil Building. Elizabeth DeGroff, reporter (ahem!), can be reached on extension 5502 -- some of the time, at least.



HERE IS A TABULATION SHOWING BY NUMBER AND ACREAGE  
PLANS DEVELOPED BY SCS TECHNICIANS TO  
DECEMBER 31, 1939

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TYPE OF PLANS	Soil Conservation Areas		Soil Conservation Districts		Demonstration Projects		Watershed Projects	
	Number	Acres	Number	Acres	Number	Acres	Number	Acres
<u>Farm Conservation Plans</u>								
Regular	186 $\frac{1}{2}$	92,388 $\frac{1}{2}$	14,974	3,612,755	25,859	3,849,920	1,012	4,863,829
SCS-Extension	529	361,344			1,605	838,909	29	337,442
Farm Security Administration	8	1,091			149	308,114	1	2,400
Water Facilities	49	20,400			40	89,582	46	25,449
Other					2,568	222,690	191	27,660
Total	772	475,223	14,974	3,612,755	30,221	5,309,215	1,279	5,256,780
<u>Detailed Operation Plans</u>								
Land Development								
Drainage					123		6	
Roadside Erosion Control	3				123		6	
Total	3							
<u>Working Agreement</u>								
Indian Reservations	4	399,167			4	28,099	38	18,537,085
National Forests	9	355,884					14	144,543
Grazing Districts	5	49,994			3	12,328	1	65,000
Other Public Lands	26	54,400			75	36,403	19	180,730
Total	44	859,445			82	76,830	72	18,927,358
TOTAL	819	1,334,668	14,974	3,612,755	30,426	5,386,045	1,357	24,184,138



TYPE OF PLANS	Land Utilization Projects		CCC Camps		Water Facilities Area		Total	
	Number	Acres	Number	Acres	Number	Acres	Number	Acres
<u>Farm Conservation Plans</u>								
Regular			46,805	9,352,208			88,836	21,771,100
SCS-Extension			73	101,283			2,236	1,638,978
Farm Security Administration			18	3,531			176	315,136
Water Facilities					530	643,461	665 <sup>2</sup>	778,892
Other			1	490			2,760	250,840
Total			46,897	9,457,512	530	643,461	94,673	24,754,946
<u>Detailed Operation Plans</u>								
Land Development	108	11,536,444					108	11,536,444
Drainage			3,665				3,665	
Roadside Erosion Control			497				629	
Total	108	11,536,444	4,162				4,402	11,536,444
<u>Working Agreement</u>								
Indian Reservations			1	536,000			47	19,500,351
National Forests			6	327,590			29	828,017
Grazing Districts			10	236,221			19	363,543
Other Public Lands			56	43,954			176	315,487
Total			73	1,143,765			271	21,007,398
TOTAL	108	11,536,444	51,132	10,601,277	530	643,461	99,346	57,298,788

<sup>1</sup>Plans developed by Area Technicians in CCC Areas Region 8.

<sup>2</sup>Includes only those Water Facilities Plans developed separately from Project, Camp, and District Plans. In addition to these plans 112 W.F. Plans had been developed in conjunction with Farm Conservation Plans in Projects, Camps, and Districts.

### PRINTERS' INK

A simple, inexpensive method of shading isorithmic maps in distinctive patterns of black and white is described in the April 12 issue of Science by C. W. Thornthwaite and C. F. Stewart Sharpe of the climatic and physiographic research division. The method was developed for use at the Climatic Research Center in New Philadelphia, Ohio.

This method, called the carbon transfer process, is "reminiscent of the simple childhood amusement of putting a paper over a coin and reproducing the pattern by rubbing with a pencil." The process is described in detail in the article entitled "Patterns on Maps and Drawings by the Carbon Transfer Process."

### CONSERVATION AT COCK-CROW

Regions 2, 3, and 4 inaugurated a cooperative radio program over WMC, Memphis, beginning April 9. The new series is heard each Tuesday morning, 6:30 to 6:40 a. m., three regions handling the programs in rotation.

Some programs will feature speakers, others farm flashes. All will be strictly local in character, with men from nearby work units in Mississippi, Tennessee, and Arkansas participating.

D. H. Esry, soil conservationist from Humboldt, Tenn., gave the first broadcast. His first "fan mail" came special delivery, exactly 24 hours later, from a farmer in Alabama requesting further information.

### IRRIGATION WATER SUPPLY IN WEST

The irrigation water supply in over half the 11 Western States will be below normal during the growing season and in some states the supply will be lowest in years. This estimate is based on the recently completed snow surveys in sample areas of the Cascades, Sierras and Rocky Mountains.

The purpose of the snow surveys is to determine in advance what the water supply will be during the growing season. The surveys are conducted by volunteers from various Federal, State and municipal agencies, and from irrigation enterprises, power companies, and other private agencies.

State by state summaries of the findings may be obtained from W. W. McLaughlin, chief of the division of irrigation, Berkeley, Calif.



NOTES

At a meeting of the Washington section of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers on April 17, T. B. Chambers, chief of the engineering division, was elected chairman for the coming year. J. B. Thomas of the same division was speaker at the meeting.

ANNUAL AND SICK LEAVE AMENDMENTS

By Executive Orders 8384 and 8385, dated March 29, 1940, President Roosevelt prescribed regulations relating respectively to annual and sick leave for Government employees. Readers of the Service News will be interested in the following sections:

Executive Order 8384, Sec. 9: "Provisions of this section have been made retroactive to July 1, 1936. (b) Employees ordered to active duty with a military reserve organization and required to cover absence from their civilian positions with leave without pay do not forfeit the leave accrued and unused as of the effective date of such leave without pay."

Executive Order 8384, Sec. 14: "No charge shall be made against the leave of a temporary employee for absence on days which do not occur within his regular tour of duty--Sundays, statutory holidays, and all non-work days established by executive or administrative order."

Executive Order 8385, Sec. 12: "The charge against an employee's sick leave shall be exclusive of Sundays and holidays and non-work days established by Executive or administrative order."

Further details, or copies of the executive orders, may be obtained from your Personnel Division.

REGIONAL NURSERYMEN IN WASHINGTON

L. B. Scott of Region 2, C. B. Webster of 4, A. D. Slavin of 5, A. D. Stoesz of 7, and A. L. Hafenrichter of 9 were in Washington the last 10 days of April conferring with the nursery staff and making plans for the coming season.

H. A. Gunning has been appointed head of the nursery division; F. J. Crider, formerly acting chief, will have charge of nursery work at the Beltsville Research Center in Maryland.



SKELETON OUT OF THE CUPBOARD

Queer quirks now and then reveal themselves in every line of human endeavor. The field of conservation has its own little album of true stories -- pathetic, disturbing, sometimes amusing.

There is, for example, a farmer (we won't say where) who takes an inordinate delight in being Victim No. 1 of each storm. "Let me show you my five-acre field," he'll say. "There's not a spot in the whole valley where so much soil was washed off." Or again, "Last night's rain cut cracks all over the county but my cracks are the biggest and best of the bunch."

One of the SCS boys visited this farmer after a heavier-than-average storm. Beaming all over and positively exuding pride, the farmer led the way to his family burial ground on a sunny slope. "Look what yesterday's gully-washer did," said he, pointing triumphantly. At the foot of the hill were the bones of his ancestors.

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Benton, Miss Mildred

May 15, 1940

## YOUR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT SAYS --

Some of you who read the recent dispatch about this correspondent's experience on a certain auto ride will be interested in the following comment from Tom Dale, who "Informs" the populace of Region Six:

"I have just read your lead story in the April 1 issue of SERVICE NEWS, entitled "Your Washington Correspondent Says".

"The thought entered my mind that possibly this field man drove so fast because he needed to get back to his office to take another Washington visitor out to the field; or maybe read some more memoranda; or, possibly, even to do some work.

"The two b.h.'s (whatever "b.h." stands for) from Washington were not bankers, and I hardly think our field personnel consider them as the public in general and that it is necessary to build up public good will, of which we need plenty, with them.

"I don't think this Washington correspondent who got so scared over a little automobile ride ought necessarily to jump to conclusions and assume that the field man takes everybody around in the same manner in which he did him. I might add in closing that I am sure the incident did not happen in this region because we do not have any winding roads out here."

Well, Tom missed the point a mile. But it probably wasn't his fault. Your Washington Correspondent should have made his story clearer so that Tom could understand. Quite a few other people seemed to get the idea all right; it must have been by accident. Tom's letter proves that.



Anyway, we are amused by Mr. Dale's little "pot-shot" at Washington visitors to the field. Maybe he has got something there. Maybe visitors from Washington do impose a heavy burden on the time of the field staff. Some comment on the point from both ends would liven the News up a bit. What do you think?

And there's one point we ought to clear up for Tom -- the meaning of the mysterious initials, "b.h." They mean "brass hat", Tom, a term of endearment used far and wide. We thought sure you'd have heard it.

Then, too, as Tom points out, there may be no point at all in trying to build up good will between the people who work for the SCS. Maybe it doesn't matter how much we like or respect each other in this organization. It does seem foolish, maybe, for one SCS employee to expect that another SCS employee will bother to treat him cordially, or show concern for his safety and wellbeing. We've heard of something called "esprit de corps" or "morale", and we kind of thought that meant good will among ourselves, liking each other, and trying to get a job done together in a friendly, helpful way.

And finally, Tom, you're right -- the incident we related did not take place in Region Six. But can it be -- do you suppose -- is it just possible that the last sentence of your letter is the voice of a guilty conscience? We sure hope not.

#### SUMMER SCHEDULE FOR WASHINGTON AND VICINITY

The Washington Departmental staff went to the polls a week or so ago to record their preference in the matter of summer working hours. Although the 8:00 - 3:30 period was the first choice of the great majority, the final decision of the powers that be was that the 8:30 - 4:00 schedule would best serve the interests of the group as a whole. The Saturday hours will be 8:30 - 12:30.

The summer schedule, which will affect all USDA employees at Arlington, Va., and Beltsville, Md., as well as in the District, will be effective May 15 to September 30, inclusive.

#### ENGINEERS TO MEET IN JUNE

The American Society of Agricultural Engineers will hold its annual meeting at Pennsylvania State College, State College, Pa., June 17-20.



PROGRESS REPORT

The following table indicates the status of major soil conservation measures and practices in the United States to December 31, 1939. Figures are summarized from semi-annual reports of soil conservation districts, demonstration, watershed, and Land Utilization projects, water facilities areas, and CCC conservation camps:

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Amount Planned</u>	<u>Amount Completed</u>
Contour Cultivation	Acres	5,177,191	3,392,508
Contour Furrows & Ridges	Acres	1,602,576	852,409
Terracing	Acres	3,247,581	1,746,479
Strip Cropping	Acres	2,482,448	1,389,989
Planted to Permanent Hay	Acres	426,001	252,064
Planted to Permanent Pasture and/or Range	Acres	1,756,578	872,018
Woody Plantings	Acres	504,744	406,749
Water Storage Structures	Number	10,118	7,735
Water Storage Structures	Acre-Ft.Storage	448,779	298,023
Gullies Treated	Number	558,578	487,259

The following table represents the planned adjustments in land use on farms and ranches for which SCS technicians have developed farm conservation plans. A study of the table will show that many changes are required to bring about proper land use and that such changes as indicated in the line "Net Changes" show substantial reductions in both cultivated and idle land, the types of usage most conducive to erosion.

For those not familiar with the table it might be pointed out that in each of the horizontal lines (1) to (8) inclusive, is shown the land use acreage before planning and the uses to be made of that acreage after planning. The acreage figures shown in parenthesis represent the amount of the before planning acreage to remain in its original use. In line (9) is shown the total acreages of all land uses and the total acreages to be in each land use after planning. The figures in line (9) represent the difference between the before planning and after planning acreages for each land use.

Data included in the tabulation are summarized from soil conservation districts, demonstration and watershed projects, SCS-CCC conservation camps, and water facilities areas semi-annual reports.

LAND CONVERSIONS  
CUMULATIVE TO DECEMBER 31, 1939

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LAND USES	Before Planning (Acres)	AFTER PLANNING (ACRES)							
		Cultiva- ted	Perma. Hay	Orchard, Vineyard	Pasture or Range	Forest Range	Woodland; Wildlife	Misc.	
(1) Cultivated	8,172,815	(6,869,791)	402,955	9,015	744,891	580	132,155	2,615	10,813
(2) Permanent Hay	303,440	22,981	(247,954)	151	17,562	5	1,561	61	13,165
(3) Orchard and Vineyard	100,642	2,395	1,102	(91,569)	4,157	23	590	11	195
(4) Pasture or Range	16,980,814	68,867	23,020	1,037	(16,694,465)	2,762	178,229	3,771	8,663
(5) Forest Range or Wooded Pasture	1,590,226	3,274	596	33	163,746	(1,268,484)	152,797	1,042	254
(6) Woodland	2,398,271	21,103	3,347	1,725	132,607	2,763	(2,232,859)	1,843	2,019
(7) Wildlife	19,403	16	14		27		51	(19,130)	165
(8) Idle and 1/ Miscellaneous	954,583	85,863	44,350	2,095	152,638	538	103,568	8,860	(556,671)
(9) Total Acres	30,520,194	7,074,895	723,338	105,625	17,910,093	1,275,155	2,801,810	37,333	591,945
(10) Net Changes		-1,097,920	+419,898	+4,983	+929,279	-315,071	+493,539	+17,930	-362,638

1/ All Idle Land is planned for some definite use, therefore the difference between the acreage shown in the "Before Planning" and the "Miscellaneous" columns of Line (8) represents approximately the acres of Idle Land converted to other uses.



SECRETARY ADDRESSES EIGHTH AMERICAN  
SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS

Conservation of natural resources is the pronounced policy of the United States Congress, said Secretary Wallace in his address on "The Vital Role of Agriculture in Inter-American Relations" at the Eighth American Scientific Congress in Washington, D. C., on May 11.

The Secretary pointed out that the United States had gone through a long period of exploitation, but that we are now striving to reverse the trend and move as rapidly as possible toward the conservation of our resources.

"Depending on our choice," he said, "we can exploit our resources, exhausting them completely, or we can draw steadily on them as requirements demand, preserving the source for future generations."

APPROPRIATIONS

The conferees of the House and Senate appointed to iron out the differences between the House and Senate Committees on the Agricultural Appropriation Bill have reported on items affecting the work of this Service as follows:

SCS Regular Appropriation -- The \$1,700,000 increase by the Senate over the House bill was reduced \$700,000, which leaves a net appropriation for 1941 of \$21,090,750 as compared to \$23,720,584 for the current fiscal year.

Land Utilization -- There was no disagreement between the House and Senate figures on the appropriation for Title III of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act. The total figure available for the Department is \$2,100,000.

Water Facilities -- This item was reported in disagreement. The Senate conferees would not recede from their position that this item should be in the Act and the House conferees held to their position that it should not be in the Act. Further action by Congress is anticipated on this item this week.

Cooperative Farm Forestry -- The Senate withdrew its amendment to increase this appropriation \$77,898. This leaves \$400,000 available to carry out not only the Cooperative Farm Forestry Act but also sections 4 and 5 of the Clarke-McNary Act for which \$477,898 was available during the current fiscal year.



The appropriation for the civil functions of the War Department is in conference. There, is, however, no disagreement on the item of \$2,000,000 to be expended by the Department of Agriculture for flood control surveys.

The CCC appropriation bill is also in conference. The amount will be approximately the same as for 1940.

#### LOOK FOR THESE --

So far as possible SERVICE NEWS hopes to give advance information with regard to publication of articles in which Service personnel will be interested. You'll want to keep a weather eye out for the following pieces:

"Bands of Color Around the Hills" by Kenneth S. Davis, Region 5. Accepted by Successful Farming. Probable publication date, June issue.

"Farms Ride the Wind", by Kenneth S. Davis. Accepted by The Farmer, St. Paul, Minn. Probable publication date about July 1.

"Fred Winn Remodels His Farm", by Kenneth S. Davis. Accepted by Wallace's Farmer. Early publication indicated by editors.

"Pioneers, 1939 Model, Carve New Farms From Wilderness", by Kenneth S. Davis. Accepted by Better Crops With Plant Food. Publication in early issue.

"Two Hits With One Shot", by Harold G. Anthony. Accepted by Outdoorsman Magazine. Publication in June or July issue.

#### WASHINGTON STAFF DISCUSSES SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS:

Talks and discussions on the relationship of the Soil Conservation Service to soil conservation districts highlighted a meeting of some 70 members of the Washington staff on Tuesday, May 7.

Philip Glick, chief, land policy division, solicitor's office and Dillon S. Myer, assistant chief of the Service led the discussions. J. Phil Campbell, assistant chief of Service, in charge, presided over the meeting.

Mr. Glick pointed out that the method of operation of the Service is undergoing a complete change. In the past, he stated, when the SCS was working primarily in demonstration projects, the conservation

program was "ours"; but in working with districts, the initiative for organizing, and planning conservation work becomes that of the farmers and landowners. As a result the relationship of the Service to districts is essentially that of a "service agency". It assists, when called on, in carrying out a program sponsored by the district.

Responsibility for development and operation of the work within a district, Mr. Glick emphasized, rests on the district supervisors, and personnel of the Service working with districts should recognize that fact.

Mr. Glick agreed, at the request of Mr. Myer, to visit regional offices of the Service as rapidly as possible to discuss with staff members the position of the Service with regard to soil and moisture conservation work with districts.

L. E. Spence was named chairman of a committee to work out a plan, in connection with the personnel training section of the Service, for thoroughly acquainting all personnel with the position of the Service in its work with soil conservation districts. The Spence committee will report its recommendations to another meeting of the Washington staff at an early date.

#### THE OPEN FORUM

Editor, Service News: Since most of our Service's activities are headquartered in small towns of less than 15,000 population, I think there is a problem, peculiar to small towns having Government activities, that should be considered by budget and finance sections of the Service and some remedial action started.

I refer to the tremendous amount of red tape and delay necessary under existing regulations before a vendor can secure payment for services rendered or materials delivered. In many instances the successful bidders on supplies or services are small merchants who do not have office facilities of any sort nor access to stenographic assistance.

In several towns in this part of Texas I know of definite ill will on the part of small merchants who have had to submit their invoices in many copies, with certificates galore on the face thereof, and who have then had their invoices returned for initialing of a strike-over, additional certification, or some other minor clerical discrepancy. This red tape in our procurement procedure not only costs our Government more than necessary, directly speaking, but is causing a condition in these small towns that leads to open criticism and causes small



vendors who could render effective service cheaply to refuse to bid on any Government business. This, in turn, necessitates purchases being made in nearby large towns, our Government standing the increased transportation cost for delivery of supplies or service to destination.

Doesn't it behoove us then to look at this problem in the broad light it should be regarded and do something to make our relations with the small business man (the backbone of our nation) more amicable?

Signed: H. L. R.

COOPERATION KEYNOTE OF CONSERVATION,  
SAYS P. A. WARING

P. A. Waring of New Hope, Pa., speaking before the recent organization meeting of the Friends of the Land in Washington, D. C., stressed the cooperative aspects of the national fight against erosion.

Mr. Waring said "Control of erosion has been a cooperative job and that, to us, is the most important part of the conservation work. It can't be done by the Government services or the farmers alone. The farmer realizes it is a job for himself, his neighbor, and his Government to do together."

In discussing his own individual problem, Mr. Waring said: "My farm is at the bottom of a hill. When a soil survey was made on my farm, a technician put a soil augur on my bottom land and went through 12 inches of subsoil before he came to topsoil."

"We can't do it alone," he concluded, "it is too big a job, but we can do it if we cooperate."

PROJECT MONOGRAPHS ON LOAN

As they are received, the project monographs that are not to be published will be filed in the SCS library for loan. Five are available at present. They are:

- Big Creek, Bethany, Missouri
- Edwardsville, Illinois
- Colorado Springs, Colorado
- Ottawa, Kansas
- Stratford, Texas



PRINTERS' INK

The picture painted by H. H. Bennett in his article entitled "Half of Your Land" in News for Farmer Cooperatives for May, is not a very cheerful one. He tells how much land in the United States has been ruined by erosion and on how many million acres erosion is actively under way.

The work of the Service is briefly summarized, with emphasis on district work. The Chief's closing paragraph may be of interest:

"Throughout, there remains a single, primary direction in all the work: The wisest possible use of America's soil and water resources. Education, cooperation, and action on the land are the implements of the progress made so far."

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Helen M. Strong of the information division points out in her article on "Science and Land Use" in the March issue of Science Education that "schools in the largest cities here in the United States are turning their thoughts to the land." Children are interested in the land, Dr. Strong says, and if given an opportunity they will develop "an attitude of responsibility for its protection, and a love for it."

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In an article on "Soil and Erosion Changes on the Dalhart Sand Dune Area" in the Journal of the American Society of Agronomy for April, Luther K. Eby and Charles J. Whitfield of Amarillo, Texas, tell the results of studies and the changes that have occurred over a 3 1/2 year period on the experimental sand dune area in Dalham County, Texas.

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"Six years ago, the 5,916-acre Gilmore Creek watershed near Winona, Minnesota, was bleeding to death," writes R. H. Musser in an article on "Saving the Soil" in the April issue of Current History. Mr. Musser describes the methods used to convert Gilmore Creek into a "show-window" for soil conservation practices.

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Articles by SCS men in the January issue of the Journal of Wildlife Management are "An 8-year Census of Lesser Prairie Chickens" by Verne E. Davison, chief of the biology division at Spartanburg, S.C., and "The Effect of Certain Land Use Practices on Populations of Breeding Birds in Southwestern Ohio" by Charles A. Damback and E. E. Good both of Region 3's biology staff.

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R. Y. Bailey, Region 2 agronomy chief, gives a step-by-step method of growing kudzu plants at a cost of \$2 to \$3 per thousand in The Progressive Farmer for May. The article is called "Grow Own Kudzu Plants."

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The April issue of Ecology publishes an article on "The Role of the Bison in Maintaining the Short Grass Plains" by Floyd Larson of Billings, Mont.

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"An article on "A Field Method of Analyzing Game Bird Foods" by Verne E. Davison, biology chief for Region 2, appears in the Journal of Wildlife Management for April.

#### LETTER-WRITING CONFERENCES IN WASHINGTON

"The series of conferences to discuss methods of improving correspondence throughout the Service has already proved successful," said Dillon S. Myer, Assistant Chief. Mr. Myer was leader of the final discussion.

The Washington letter-writing conferences planned by the training section of the personnel management division, had the full support of Chief H. H. Bennett, who attended the first meeting. James F. Grady, veteran troubleshooter for Government correspondence, helped outline the conferences and led the discussion at the first two.

"The idea was an excellent one," said Mr. Myer. "Similar conferences are to be arranged for all SCS personnel who write letters."

#### SCS-WPA WORK IN THE LIMELIGHT

Witches's broom, a hygrothermograph, and the stomach of a wild turkey will be among the items of interest on display by SCS-WPA projects in the District during the "This Work Pays Your Community Week," to be observed by the professional and service division of the WPA during May 20-25.



The TWPYC week is really to be a sort of national open house week for white collar WPA workers during which citizens interested in finding out how WPA spends their dollars may watch the wheels go 'round.

The witches' broom (a locust disease) is part of the hillculture WPA project exhibit in room 417 Columbian Building. Weather-recording instruments, including the hygrothermograph, may be viewed at 501 Stewart Building where a WPA project compiles and analyzes data on runoff and rainfall for use in connection with the flood control survey work of the Department.

The turkey's stomach will be on display in room 1328 South Building as part of the WPA study of the food habits of birds, sponsored by the biology division. A project sponsored by the sedimentation division is located at 716 Columbian Building to centralize data on sedimentation within reservoirs and on valley lands. Files and reports will be open to inspection.

#### RECENT PUBLICATIONS

"Putting Down and Developing Wells for Irrigation" by Carl Rohwer. USDA Circ. No. 546.

"Erosion and Related Land Use Conditions on Lake Michie Watershed, near Durham, N. C." by Irving L. Martin and Turner C. Bass.

"Erosion and Related Land Use Conditions on the Lloyd Shoals Reservoir Watershed, Georgia" by P. H. Montgomery.

#### CONSERVATION IN SOUTHERN RHODESIA

Douglas Aylen of the irrigation department of Southern Rhodesia discusses conservation plans by his Government in the following letter to a member of the SCS staff:

"Our Soil Conservation Act comes up very shortly now. I attended a Conference a few days ago, when we went through the final draft. The Act has very far-reaching powers and covers, as far as we can make it, all land and land-users. It will be many years before it can be fully applied, but we are already preparing to take action against those persons who divert water on to a neighbor, or through neglect of control, hamper another. Eroding fields which pour silt-laden water into road ditches will also be included in the first campaign. In fact any form of land abuse which causes damage or inconvenience to another property is to be included.



"The Natural Resources Board will probably spend its first year planning and estimating, but after that it is hoped to really get going. We foresee that eventually the Board will exercise control to a varying degree over everything to do with land, minerals and water.

"It would appear to be the general policy of the Empire to start now with an increased endeavour on social and economic planning to make conditions for all better, and not undergo the same experiences as was the misfortune of the world after the last War, and we in Rhodesia are not going to be left behind in that endeavor."